IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3 and 11.

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1. (currently amended) An automated test equipment (ATE) comprising:

a tester-per-pin architecture having a plurality of individual decentralized per-pin testing units, wherein each per-pin testing unit is ~~adapted~~ for testing a respective pin of a device under test (DUT) by at least one of emitting stimulus response signals to said respective DUT-pin and receiving stimulus response signals from said respective DUT-pin, and wherein, during a testing sequence, the DUT is defined as one or more DUT-cores representing one or more functional units of said DUT and including one or more DUT-pins of said DUT; and

means for assigning, during said testing sequence, one or more of said per-pin testing units to one or more ATE-ports, ~~whereby~~ wherein each ATE-port comprises one or more of said per-pin testing units and represents an independent functional testing unit for testing one or more of said DUT-cores during said testing sequence,

wherein at least one of said ATE-ports includes programming means for independently defining at least one of programming timing and a stimulus/response pattern, and

wherein said programming means includes means for specifying a per-pin timing in terms of sets of available waveforms for each ATE-pin of the one ATE-port, wherein each waveform represents a sequence of events of various types occurring at specified instances in time.

2. (previously presented) The automated test equipment of claim 1, wherein said means for assigning comprises:

switching means for switching connections between one or more of said per-pin testing units and one or more of said DUT-pins, and

controlling means for controlling the switching of said switching means in accordance with the assigning of said one or more of the per-pin testing units to said one or more ATE-ports during said testing sequence.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The automated test equipment of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said programming means comprises at least one of:

means for specifying cycle times of stimulus and response vectors for said at least one ATE-port;

~~means for specifying a per-pin timing in terms of sets of available waveforms for each ATE-pin of the one ATE-port, whereby each waveform represents a sequence of events of various types occurring at specified instances in time;~~

means for specifying a pattern program for the one ATE-port;

means for specifying a per-pin vector data for each pin of the one ATE-port; and

means for specifying analogue set-up conditions for analogue pins of the one ATE-port.

5. (currently amended) The automated test equipment of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said programming means comprises:

main pattern programs for implementing access protocols to one or more of said DUT-cores through a shared set of per-pin testing units comprising one individual ATE-port comprising at least per-pin testing units that are part of the ATE-ports utilized to access said one or more DUT-cores, and

independent pattern programs for implementing stimulus and response patterns for each DUT-core of said one or more DUT-cores.

6. (previously presented) The automated test equipment of claim 5, wherein said main pattern program comprises at least one of:

means for configuring said one individual ATE-port for activating said per-pin testing units thereof for accessing said one or more DUT-cores; and

means for selecting pattern data generated by pattern programs of said accessed DUT-cores during one testing sequence for testing said accessed DUT-cores.

7. (currently amended) The automated test equipment of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said programming means comprises:

specifying means for specifying an alias mapping between per-pin testing units for a plurality of said ATE-ports, for specifying at least one of timing information and a pattern program of one individual ATE-port to apply for the plurality of the ATE-ports for which the alias mapping is defined.

8. (previously presented) The automated test equipment according to claim 1, further comprising specifying means for specifying overall test conditions for a test that concurrently operates on multiple ATE-ports.

9. (previously presented) The automated test equipment of claim 8, wherein the specifying means comprises at least one of:

means for determining a set of concurrently active ATE-ports during a defined testing sequence;

means for selecting the ATE-port test conditions for one or more ATE-pins, for selecting an ATE-port timing setup for one or more ATE-pins;

means for specifying global test conditions to express dependencies between pins of the DUT and the ATE; and

means for determining a multi-port pattern burst as a sequence of per-ATE-port pattern programs for each ATE-port.

10. (currently amended) A method for testing a device under test (DUT) with automated test equipment (ATE) ~~comprising~~ having a tester-per-pin architecture having a plurality of individual decentralized per-pin testing units, wherein each per-pin testing unit is ~~adapted~~ for testing a respective pin of said DUT by at least one of emitting stimulus response signals to said respective DUT-pin and receiving stimulus response signals from said respective DUT-pin, said method comprising:

defining, for a testing sequence, said DUT as one or more DUT-cores representing one or more functional units of said DUT and including one or more pins of said DUT, and

assigning during said testing sequence, one or more of said per-pin testing units to one or more ATE-ports, ~~whereby~~ wherein each ATE-port comprises one or more of said per-pin testing units and represents an independent functional testing unit for testing one or more of said DUT-cores during said testing sequence; and

defining at least one of programming timing and a stimulus/response pattern for at least one of said ATE-ports, and specifying a per-pin timing in terms of sets of available waveforms for each ATE-pin of the ATE-port, wherein each waveform represents a sequence of events of various types occurring at specified instances in time.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 10, wherein said defining at least one of programming timing and a stimulus/response pattern comprises at least one of:

specifying cycle times of stimulus and response vectors for the one ATE-port;

~~specifying a per-pin timing in terms of sets of available waveforms for each per-pin testing unit of the one ATE-port, whereby each waveform represents a sequence of events of various types occurring at specified instances in time;~~

specifying a pattern program for the one ATE-port, preferably specifying common sequencing instructions for all per-pin testing units of the one ATE-port;

specifying per-pin vector data for each per-pin testing unit of the one ATE-port; and

specifying analogue set-up conditions for analogue pins of the one ATE-port.

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~11~~10, further comprising:

specifying overall test conditions for a test that concurrently operates on multiple ATE-ports.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein specifying overall test conditions comprises:

determining a set of concurrently active ATE-ports during a defined testing sequence;

selecting the ATE-port test conditions for one or more ATE-pins, preferably for selecting an ATE-port timing setup for one or more ATE-pins;

specifying global test conditions to express dependencies between pins of the DUT and the ATE, preferably global DUT specifications; and

determining a multi-port pattern burst as a sequence of per-ATE-port pattern programs for each ATE-port.

15. (currently amended) A data media for storing computer instructions for automated test equipment, said data media comprising:

~~a means~~ instructions for testing a device under test (DUT) with automated test equipment (ATE) ~~comprising~~ having a tester-per-pin architecture having a plurality of individual decentralized per-pin testing units, wherein each per-pin testing unit is ~~adapted~~ for testing a respective pin of said DUT by at least one of emitting stimulus response signals to said respective DUT-pin and receiving stimulus response signals from said respective DUT-pin;

~~means~~ instructions for defining, for a testing sequence, said DUT as one or more DUT-cores representing one or more functional units of said DUT and including one or more pins of said DUT; and

~~means~~ instructions for assigning during said testing sequence, one or more of said per-pin testing units to one or more ATE-ports, ~~whereby~~ wherein each ATE-port comprises one or more of said per-pin testing units and represents an independent functional testing unit for testing one or more of said DUT-cores during said testing sequence; and

instructions for defining at least one of programming timing and a stimulus/response pattern for at least one of said ATE-ports, and specifying a per-pin timing in terms of sets of available waveforms for each ATE-pin of the ATE-port, wherein each waveform represents a sequence of events of various types occurring at specified instances in time.